

The Joy and Sorrow of a Pastor

2 Corinthians 1:21- 2:17

FAITH BUILDERS

I. THE AUTHENTICITY OF EVERY BELIEVER (1: 21-22)

A. (:21) God the Father Establishes us in Christ

"Now He who established us with you in Christ"

B. (:22) Anointed in God

"and anointed us is God."

C. (:22) Sealed by the spirit

"who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."

D. (:22) The Spirit in our hearts is a pledge from God

"who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."

II. THE REASON FOR HIS CHANGED PLANS (1:23-2:4)

1. Discipline would bring more sorrow for the Corinthians

A. (:23) Motive of Mercy (in not coming to discipline)

"But I call God as witness to my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth."

B. (:24) Humility of leaders

"Not that we lord it over your faith ,but are workers with you for your joy; for in your faith you are standing firm."

II. THE REASON FOR HIS CHANGED PLANS (1:23-2:4)

2. (2:1-2) Apostolic Discipline would be Painful for Paul

A. (:1) Discipline is an Occasion for Sorrow

“But I determined this for my own sake, that I would not come to you in sorrow again.”

B. (:2) The Sorrow is Mutual

“For if I cause you sorrow, who then makes me glad but the one whom I made sorrowful?”

II. THE REASON FOR HIS CHANGED PLANS (1:23-2:4)

3. (2:3-4) Joy Instead of Sorrow

A. (:3) Pastoral Exhortation to rejoice

“And this is the very thing I wrote you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow from those who ought to make me rejoice; having confidence in you all that my joy would be the joy of you all.”

B. (:4) Pastoral Exhortation Flowing out of a Concerned Heart of Love

“For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you with many tears; not that you should be made sorrowful, but that you might know the love which I have especially for you.”

III. (2:5-11) – THE BLESSING OF FORGIVENESS

1. (5) Enough is Enough - There Has Already Been Sufficient Sorrow

A. To the Apostle Paul

“But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me”

B. To the Majority of the Corinthian Church

“but in some degree—in order not to say too much—to all of you.”

2. (:6) There Has Already Been Sufficient Punishment

“Sufficient for such a one is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority.”

IV. (2:7-11) FORGIVE AND RESTORE – INSTRUCTION REGARDING HOW TO FORGIVE AND REAFFIRM LOVE

A. (:7) The Need for Forgiveness and Restoration

“so that on the contrary you should rather forgive and comfort him, lest somehow such a one be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.”

B. (:8) Pastoral Exhortation to love

“Wherefore I urge you to reaffirm your love for him.”

C. (:9) The Test of Forgiveness and Restoration = Test of Obedience

“For to this end also I wrote that I might put you to the test, whether you are obedient in all things.”

D. (:10) Forgiveness Lies at the Heart of Christian Relationships

“But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also, for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ.”

E. (:11) Satan Uses Bitterness to Drive a Wedge Between Believers

“In order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.”

V. (2:12-17)- THE RESTORATION OF JOY TO A PASTOR

A. (:12) An Open Door for the gospel

"Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,"

B. (:13) A Troubled Spirit Must Always be Addressed

"I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia."

VI. (2:14-16a) THE RESULTS OF THE GOSPEL MINISTRY – Two Metaphors

A. Metaphor of Roman Triumphant Procession

“But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ”

B. Metaphor of Fragrant Aroma

“and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. ¹⁵ For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life.”

VII. (2:16b-17) THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

A. (16b) - Who has the faithfulness to proclaim the message

“And who is adequate for these things?”

B. (17) - Faithful to the word of God, from God, in the sight of God

“For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.”

Applications

1. Have confidence in your salvation – God has chosen you before the foundation of the world, established you in Christ, anointed you, sealed you and given the holy spirit as a guarantee.
2. Follow the process of Matthew 18 for discipline: support your elders in the process, knowing it doesn't bring joy, unless that person comes to repentance.
3. Pray for those in discipline in the church that they will truly repent
4. Be quick to forgive and restore fellowship with those in Christ who are repentant.
5. Beware of the wiles of the devil – create disunity, envy, bitterness, anger
6. Proclaim the message of the gospel – this is for all church members not just pastors.
7. Confess your sins often to the Lord and ask for his forgiveness and Joy to be restored